## **CLAIMS**

- 1. A method of stabilizing an electrolytically colored, anodized aluminum article against degradation by ultraviolet radiation comprising heating the colored article to a temperature above 300°F for a period to achieve such stabilization.
- 2. The method as recited in claim 1 in which said aluminum article is a sheet metal panel formed of an aluminum alloy of the AA5xxx series of alloy compositions and said heating period is in excess of 45 minutes.
- 3. The method as recited in claim 1 in which said aluminum article is a sheet metal panel formed of an aluminum alloy of the AA6xxx series of alloy compositions and said heating period is in excess of 45 minutes.
- 4. The method as recited in claim 1 in which said aluminum article is a sheet metal panel formed of an aluminum alloy of the AA6111 composition and said heating period is in excess of 45 minutes.
- 5. The method as recited in claim 1 in which said aluminum article is a sheet metal panel formed of an aluminum alloy of AA5083 or AA5657 composition and said heating period is in excess of 45 minutes.
- 6. A method of making an aluminum alloy article having a colored anodized surface in which the color is stabilized against degradation by ultraviolet radiation, said method comprising:

anodizing said surface of said article in an aqueous sulfuric acid bath to form a colorable anodized layer on said surface, said layer being characterized by porous crystalline columns of aluminum oxide;

electrolytically depositing metal particles in the pores of said anodized layer for coloring said layer; and

heating said colored layer at a temperature above 300°F for a period sufficient to stabilize said color layer against said radiation.

- 7. The method recited in claim 6 comprising sealing said colored layer before said heating step.
- 8. The method as recited in claim 6 in which said aluminum article is a sheet metal panel formed of an aluminum alloy of the AA5xxx series or AA6xxx series of alloy compositions and said heating period is in excess of 45 minutes.
- 9. A method of making an exterior vehicular aluminum alloy sheet metal body panel having a colored anodized surface in which the color is stabilized against degradation by ultraviolet radiation, said method comprising:

forming said body panel from an aluminum alloy sheet material chosen for the forming of said panel;

anodizing said surface of said formed panel in an aqueous sulfuric acid bath to form a colorable anodized layer on said surface, said layer being characterized by porous crystalline columns of aluminum oxide and having a thickness of 15 micrometers or greater;

electrolytically depositing metal particles in the pores of said anodized layer for coloring said layer; and

heating said colored layer at a temperature above 300°F for a period sufficient to stabilize said color layer against said radiation.